

Rudston Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting held in the Village Hall
on Wednesday, 4th September, 2013

1. Present: Mr. N. Watson (Chairman)
Mr. S. Rhodes
Mr. T. Smallwood
Mr. R. Overfield
Mr. P. Wood
Mr. B. Warcup
Mrs. A. Starkey
Mr. A.S. Ezard
Mr. J. Moorfoot
Mr. P. Crossland (Clerk)
2. Apologies: Mrs. F. Turner
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June, 2013, were agreed and signed as a true record.
4. There were no Declarations of interest.
5. There were no Public representations.
6. Matters Arising:
 - (i) Trees/Grant (items 6i & 14 ii)
East Riding of Yorkshire Council were in need to an update on the Grant and estimation of when the parish council could expect to complete the spending against it. There was some discussion about siting of the proposed trees, which would be December/January. Clerk to advise sum remaining on current Grant as it was expected that another would be forthcoming later in the year. (See later)
 - (ii) Thornholme Wind Farm (item 7 i)
The parish council's statement to the Inspectorate had been acknowledged and would have come into consideration at the Public Inquiry in July. Since then, the parish council had been urged by other local councils to follow their example in a separate letter direct to Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles M.P. The Chairman had drafted a

letter and the Clerk had despatched on 16th August, with copy to local M.P. This was read out to the meeting. Members approved. No acknowledgement as yet. Also, the Chairman reported that Burton Agnes Parish Council were concerned that a report in Bridlington Free Press gave an unfortunate impression of parish councils' role in this matter, and had submitted a letter for publication to correct that.

(iii) Cluster Meeting (Actions) (item 7 ii)

A summary of the Highways issues arising from the meeting and subsequent meeting in the village with the Chairman had been received. This was read out by the Clerk with the Chairman providing detail of tasks completed and the one still outstanding.

(iv) P.C.S.O. (item 14 iii)

The official position (in July) was that a new P.C.S.O. would be recruited for the area, but until that person was fully trained another P.C.S.O. would be covering Rudston.

7. Planning Applications:

(i) Denby House Turbine Re-positioning

A re-positioning of one of the two wind turbines was necessary following the discovery that it would be too close to a gas pipeline. Plans had been seen by all members with a majority showing no objection. Approval had later been given. Among numerous conditions was the need to let M.O.D. Staxton know details of size, start date, etc., even though the first turbine was now in operation.

(ii) East of Olcote

Plans received previous day for: erection of one dwelling and vehicular access. Studied at the meeting. The Chairman advised that this was outside both current and new development area line, and with the number of houses of a similar size currently for sale in the village, there would not appear to be a need for any additional houses at this time. He had also just been handed a letter before the meeting from the occupiers of Olcote, who were "horrified" at the plan. It was agreed that to allow this would leave the whole field vulnerable to development and there was also the question of access directly onto the main road. Refusal to be recommended.

(Clerk's note: "strong" refusal to E.R,Y.C. 5/9/13 + letter to "Olcote" 6/9/13)

8. Lamb Row

An e-mail letter had been received from the daughter of the elderly disabled lady occupier of No. 1 Lamb Row. She was having problems with the new owner of the next door No. 2 who had recently gained approval for an extension. (Item 6 iii, last meeting). Among a number of issues was that a new fence had been erected to prevent the old lady from parking her car at the bottom of her own garden. It seemed that there were "two sides" to the matter however, and the Clerk read out a message from Mrs. Turner who had heard something of the other side. The problem seemed to arise from a "shared access" situation, where 1 Lamb Row has

Pedestrian access rights, but not vehicle access rights.

Mediation was considered but after some discussion it was agreed that the matter would be better sorted out between the people involved. It was also agreed that a planning application for alternative access to 1 Lamb Row would be supported if it resolved the problem.

(Clerk's note: e-mail letter to Mrs. Burton (daughter) 5/9/13)

9. Street Lights

E.R.Y.C. had advised that 16 street lights in Rudston were life-expired and the parish council were advised to consider having the columns structurally tested as there was a danger of "rotting away" below ground level. This would come at a cost of £15 per column (£240 for 16). There was some discussion, and query about ownership, but this was agreed.

10. Rural Fair Share Campaign

The Chairman explained this campaign being mounted as it was believed a Local Government Finance Settlement was unfair to rural communities, who already received 50% less support than urban areas, and government were planning to "freeze" it until 2020. The Clerk had printed copies of a Petition which the Chairman recommended as many people as possible should sign. This to have the heading amended, and two copies to each member distributed with Minutes.

11. Communication

The Chairman was concerned about communication amongst members between meetings. In particular, failure to respond to e-mail messages. A show of hands confirmed that a majority of members had e-mail access, and Mr. Overfield volunteered to pass a copy of such messages to Mr. Warcup in future. It was argued that anything important would require the calling of a special meeting anyway, but members agreed to try to be a little more responsive to such matters.

12. Clerk's Salary

A quick return to this subject had been forced by a small increase in the National Minimum Wage in October. The Clerk gave proposed new figures with a rounding down to the nearest pound as £328 per quarter, an increase of £6. This was agreed, and new rate to become effective 1st October. (There would be one more payment at the current rate).

13. Committee Reports

Mr. Rhodes reported that the Village Hall committee were still worried by some apparent apathy in the village, and disappointing attendance at events. The advertising of those remained a concern. There was much discussion on this, and the broader country-wide issue of so many other home-based attractions. Members were urged to talk over the matter with residents and emphasise the importance of upholding one of the last remaining village assets.

14. Members' Village Issues

- (i) The Chairman reported that all "Streetscene" matters were either completed or in hand.
- (ii) There had been criticism of the siting of the village notice boards and provision of seats. It was pointed out that there were some of those, but this subject to be investigated further for next meeting.
- (iii) The on-going demolition/ building works at Westcroft were being monitored, with particular attention to the Water Lane boundary. Mr. Wood advised that the true boundary was actually one yard outside the wall, irrespective of the position of the ditch. The Clerk thought this would be why there had been no response to his particular query about that.
- (iv) The Clerk had been approached about the parish council sponsoring the October edition of the newsletter. Agreed.

15. Payment of Accounts

Payment was authorised and cheques signed for:

Rudston Newsletter (sponsor)	£ 25.00
Rudston Village Hall (Hire)	£ 7.50

The Clerk also reported a receipt of £177.87 for Recycling which covered a glass collection in April and Paper & Glass in June. Also receipt of £40.68 from the Bowls Club for mowers insurance.

16. Correspondence

- (i) Details of the 2013/14 Local Grant Fund had been received, showing categories for applications up to £2,000, and over £2,000. This was the one referred to earlier (item 6 i). Letter to be retained.
- (ii) Two editions of E.R. Parish News. Changes in permitted development noted in one of them were expanded on by the Chairman.
- (iii) Request from Yorkshire Air Ambulance to consider installation of a Clothing Bank at the recycling site. Though recognised to be a worthy cause it was agreed to turn down, as there are already two alongside the more regular containers.
- (iv) A meeting was thought to be imminent with Yorkshire Ambulance Service regarding Defibrillators with Mrs. Turner likely to attend.
- (v) The first edition of a new quarterly "e-bulletin" called Rural Matters had been received. Passed to Chairman for interest.
- (vi) Letters from Post Office regarding closure of Kilham Post Office and new arrangements. Not read to meeting as Clerk had detailed in newsletter.
- (vii) A review of the Code of Conduct was under way and any comments invited. None.
- (viii) Mugs being advertised to commemorate the birth of the new Prince of Cambridge with a minimum order of 36. Declined.

- (ix) Letter from Peter Hirschfeld advising that Rudston was a selected village in which a “workshop” would be held to advise residents about reducing energy costs.
- (x) An Annual Review about the Dogger Bank off-shore installation had been received, and that day an update on the current position.
- (xi) Notice had been received of a meeting involving a government minister to be held regarding Community Transport Strategy. Chairman hoped to attend.
- (xii) E.R.Y.C. e-mail notice about an Activities for Older Folk initiative. As this involved an initial free trial period, it was agreed to give it a go. Chairman to accept and give Mr. Rhodes as contact for setting up.

17. Any Other Business

The Chairman had received a message that day from the Tennis Club asking if the parish council were willing to submit a Grant for the re-surfacing of the tennis courts as the parish council can re-claim V.A.T. Having been fore-warned, the Clerk had advised extreme caution with the issue and firstly to establish whether the particular conditions of the grant even permitted V.A.T. to be reclaimed. After some discussion, it was agreed that the parish council would be prepared to help in principle, but to ensure that it was free to do so.

18. Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting

To be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 16th October, 2013, at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

